



## The F Scale

Sixty-eight years ago, the Authoritarian Personality studies attempted to "construct an instrument that would yield an estimate of fascist receptivity at the personality level."

This interactive *F Scale* presents that instrument in its final form. Additional information, including an explanation of the personality variables the F Scale tries to measure, is given below after the questionnaire. So take the F Scale now --- or else!

More strange stuff at [Anesi.com](https://anesi.com) [main menu](#)

**[1] Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.**

☒ Disagree Strongly
 ☐ Disagree Mostly
 ☐ Disagree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Mostly
 ☐ Agree Strongly

**[2] A person who has bad manners, habits, and breeding can hardly expect to get along with decent people.**

☒ Disagree Strongly
 ☐ Disagree Mostly
 ☐ Disagree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Mostly
 ☐ Agree Strongly

**[3] If people would talk less and work more, everybody would be better off.**

☒ Disagree Strongly
 ☐ Disagree Mostly
 ☐ Disagree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Mostly
 ☐ Agree Strongly

**[4] The business man and the manufacturer are much more important to society than the artist and the professor.**

☒ Disagree Strongly
 ☐ Disagree Mostly
 ☐ Disagree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Mostly
 ☐ Agree Strongly

**[5] Science has its place, but there are many important things that can never be understood by the human mind.**

☐ Disagree Strongly
 ☐ Disagree Mostly
 ☐ Disagree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Somewhat
 ☐ Agree Mostly
 ☒ Agree Strongly

**[6] Every person should have complete faith in some supernatural power whose decisions**

**he obeys without question.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[7] Young people sometimes get rebellious ideas, but as they grow up they ought to get over them and settle down.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[8] What this country needs most, more than laws and political programs, is a few courageous, tireless, devoted leaders in whom the people can put their faith.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[9] No sane, normal, decent person could ever think of hurting a close friend or relative.**

☐ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☒ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[10] Nobody ever learned anything really important except through suffering.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[11] What the youth needs most is strict discipline, rugged determination, and the will to work and fight for family and country.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[12] An insult to our honor should always be punished.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

---

**[13] Sex crimes, such as rape and attacks on children, deserve more than mere**

**imprisonment; such criminals ought to be publicly whipped, or worse.**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[14] There is hardly anything lower than a person who does not feel a great love, gratitude, and respect for his parents.**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[15] Most of our social problems would be solved if we could somehow get rid of the immoral, crooked, and feebleminded people.**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[16] Homosexuals are hardly better than criminals and ought to be severely punished.**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[17] When a person has a problem or worry, it is best for him not to think about it, but to keep busy with more cheerful things.**

<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[18] Nowadays more and more people are prying into matters that should remain personal and private.**

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[19] Some people are born with an urge to jump from high places.**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Mostly	Disagree Somewhat	Agree Somewhat	Agree Mostly	Agree Strongly

---

**[20] People can be divided into two distinct classes: the weak and the strong.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[21] Some day it will probably be shown that astrology can explain a lot of things.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[22] Wars and social troubles may someday be ended by an earthquake or flood that will destroy the whole world.**

☐ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☒ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[23] No weakness or difficulty can hold us back if we have enough will power.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[24] It is best to use some prewar authorities in Germany to keep order and prevent chaos.  
[You'll have to pretend it is 1946 when you answer this one.]**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[25] Most people don't realize how much our lives are controlled by plots hatched in secret places.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[26] Human nature being what it is, there will always be war and conflict.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**[27] Familiarity breeds contempt.**

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

[28] Nowadays when so many different kinds of people move around and mix together so much, a person has to protect himself especially carefully against catching an infection or disease from them.

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

[29] The wild sex life of the old Greeks and Romans was tame compared to some of the goings-on in this country, even in places where people might least expect it.

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

[30] The true American way of life is disappearing so fast that force may be necessary to preserve it.

☒ Disagree  
Strongly

☐ Disagree  
Mostly

☐ Disagree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Somewhat

☐ Agree  
Mostly

☐ Agree  
Strongly

**Click or tap to display your F Score**

**Your Overall F Score is: 1.53**  
**You are a whining rotter.**

***Scores for Personality Variables:***

Conventionalism: 1.00  
Authoritarian Submission: 2.43  
Authoritarian Aggression: 1.00  
Anti-intracception: 2.00  
Superstition and Stereotypy: 2.17  
Power and "Toughness": 1.00  
Destructiveness and Cynicism: 1.00  
Projectivity: 2.00  
Sex: 1.00

**NOTE: A question may measure more than one personality variable, and a personality variable is measured by more than one question. See table below for details.**

**Click or tap to clear responses**

If your score is...	You are...
Less than 2	A whining rotter.
2 to 3	A liberal airhead.
3 to 4.5	Within normal limits; an appropriate score for an American. (The overall average score for groups tested in the original study is listed in the 1950 publication as 3.84, with men averaging somewhat higher and women somewhat lower.)
4.5 to 5.5	You should practice doing things with your left hand.
5.5 or higher	Have trouble keeping the lint off your black shirts?

Answers are scored (as in the original instrument) on a 6-point scale, from 1 (Disagree Strongly) to 6 (Agree Strongly).

The following table shows the personality variables the F Scale attempted to measure, and the questions in the F Scale instrument that were deemed to measure those variables. Please note that a single question may measure more than one variable.

Personality Variable	Questions measuring variable
<i>Conventionalism</i> : Rigid adherence to conventional, middle-class values.	1, 2, 3, 4
<i>Authoritarian Submission</i> : Submissive, uncritical attitude toward idealized moral authorities of the ingroup.	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
<i>Authoritarian Aggression</i> : Tendency to be on the lookout for, and to condemn, reject, and punish people who violate conventional values.	2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
<i>Anti-intraception</i> : Opposition to the subjective, the imaginative, the tender-minded.	3, 4, 17, 18
<i>Superstition and Stereotypy</i> : The belief in mystical determinants of the individual's fate; the disposition to think in rigid categories.	5, 6, 19, 20, 21, 22
<i>Power and "Toughness"</i> : Preoccupation with the dominance-submission, strong-weak, leader-follower dimension; identification with power figures; overemphasis upon the conventionalized attributes of the ego; exaggerated assertion of strength and toughness.	8, 11, 12, 20, 23, 24, 25, 30
<i>Destructiveness and Cynicism</i> : Generalized hostility, vilification of the human.	26, 27
<i>Projectivity</i> : The disposition to believe that wild and dangerous things go on in the world; the projection outwards of unconscious emotional impulses.	18, 22, 25, 28, 29
<i>Sex</i> : Exaggerated concern with sexual "goings-on."	13, 16, 29

Well, there you have it. For more information, consult T. W. Adorno et al., *The Authoritarian Personality* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1950). It should be noted here that that the authors concluded that it had "still to be demonstrated" if the F-scale actually did, in fact, measure fascist receptivity at a personality level. They were sure it measured something --- but not exactly sure what. T. W. Adorno returned to the University of Frankfurt, where he amused himself as a principal figure in the Frankfurt school of "critical theory", producing a Freudian-Marxist melange of pseudo-scientific speculative nonsense.

Contact information on [main page](#).

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<https://anesi.com/fscale.htm>



**1/24/2019**